

Missouri First Steps Improvement Plan

Challenge: Despite a comprehensive systems redesign of the Part C Program, First Steps is challenged with increasing costs of services. Given inconsistent implementation of state policy and guidance related to team based, family-centered services, families receive inequitable services that seem to be based more on where they live than their needs and priorities. Services do not consistently focus on building family capacity to facilitate their child's learning and development in the context of everyday routines and activities. Overall, Missouri's Part C First Steps Program needs to ensure implementation of quality family-centered services through effective quality assurance mechanisms, which result in a cost effective and efficient statewide early intervention system.

Where We Are

Multi-Level Issues:

State infrastructure: Program costs are increasing with wide variation in cost per child. There is limited accountability, oversight and support (e.g. guidance) to ensure effective, efficient quality services.

Personnel Development: There are many providers without EI expertise and providers without sufficient skills in team based IFSP development due to insufficient training and TA as well as incentives to retain providers.

SPOE and Program Infrastructure: There are limited or no accountability measures at regional/local level for supervision/oversight and support of effective service coordination and provider practice. SPOEs need to contain costs.

Service Provider/ Practice: Inconsistent implementation of individualized, family centered, effective services in everyday routines and activities. There are limited incentives for changing practices and containing costs.

Children and Families: Families not consistently accessing timely services; intensity and frequency of services are not based on needs of child and enhancing family capacity to support their child's learning in everyday routines and activities.

Where We Want To Go

Multi-level Impacts:

State infrastructure: State will provide oversight, incentives and support (e.g. guidance, communication) to enhance consistency across SPOEs, ensure high quality, equitable services and maximize efficient use of resources.

Personnel Development: State will have the capacity to provide Training and TA to improve team-based practice and quality of IFSPs and support efficient and effective services and supports in natural environments.

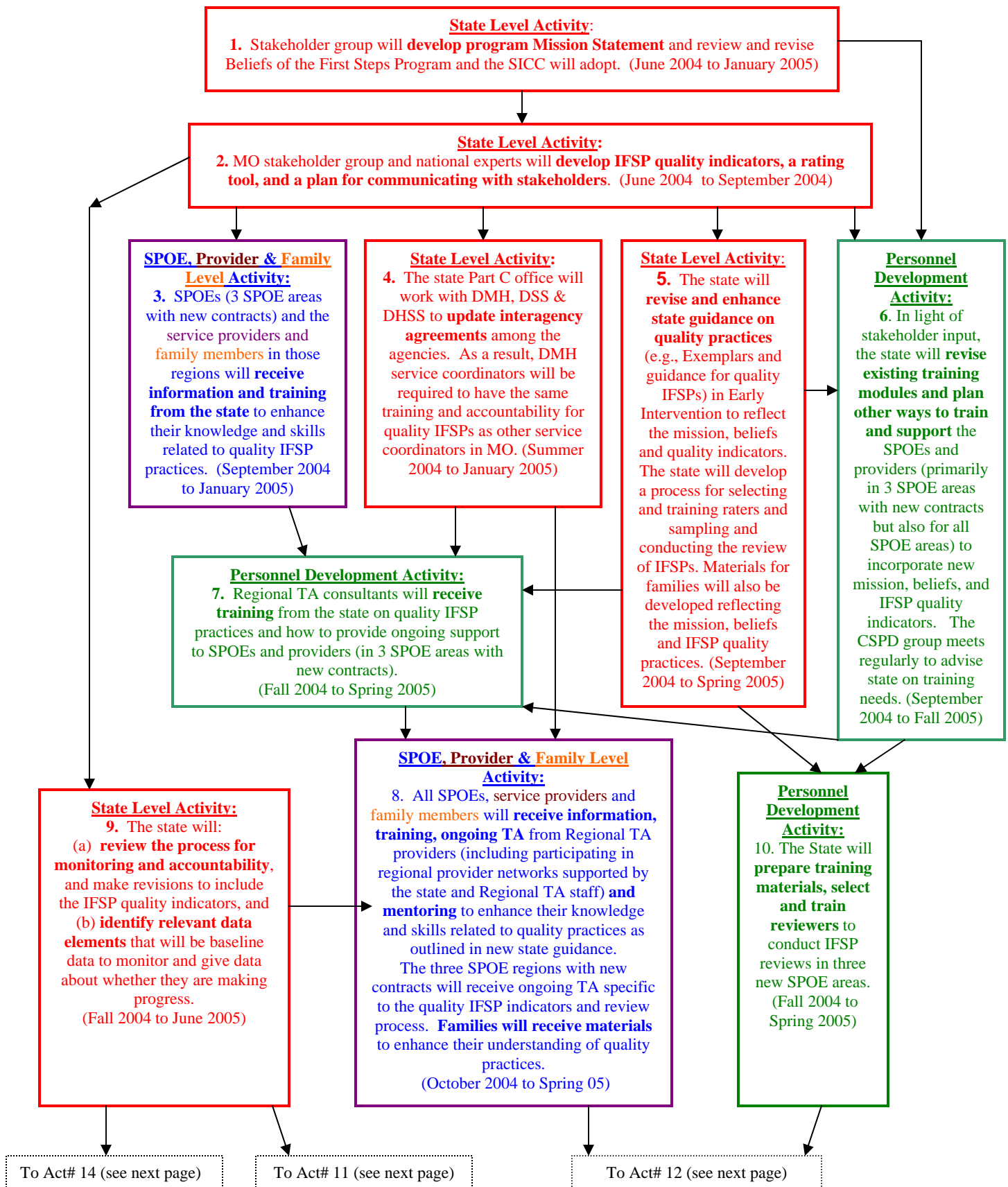
SPOE and Program Infrastructure: SPOEs and providers have the skills and expertise to use state guidance and participate in quality assurance processes (e.g. supervision, mentoring) to assure local policies and procedures support effective, cost efficient services.

Service Provider/ Practice: Service providers will implement a team based, family centered IFSP process that results in timely, efficient, and appropriate supports and services that builds family capacity to enhance their child's development in the context of routines and activities.

Children and Families: Families understand how to enhance their child's development through daily routines/activities. Regardless of locale, children and families access timely, family-centered services, appropriate to their needs and priorities.

Multi-Level Improvement Activities

2004



Multi-Level Improvement Activities 2005

